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Prairie View A&M University

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The Official Student Newspaper of Prairie View A&M University

THE PANTHER

panther@pvamu.edu • Volume 78, Issue 20 • March 30, 2001

Holocaust focus of 'Maafa' commemoration

By Tony Browne
Special to the Panther

Historical enslavement of African people remains at heart of group

Maafa, a Kiswahili word meaning terrible disaster or occurrence, was the central theme of a week commemorating the African enslavement holocaust where countless men, women and children died.

Now in its third year, the annual Maafa Week, which was held March 19-23 this year, has been sponsored by the Alkebulan Society and dedicated to remembering those ancestors who suffered and endured brutal methods of attack geared at the mental, physical and spiritual destruction of African people.

Alkebulan has worked closely with groups such as the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America and the National Black United Front.



Former student Eric Gaither sits in the center of Alkebulan Society members Aiji Daste, Claydius Washington, Eric Blaylock and Six Awoyefa.

This year's program featured a lecture and slide presentation by internationally recognized African historian, Ashra Kwesi, founder of Kemet Nu Productions, a company that promotes higher consciousness about African ancestral heritage.

Kwesi's presentation, "The African Origins of Civilization and Freemasonry,"

captivated over 250 attendees from Prairie View, Houston and Dallas.

"He who controls the diameter of your knowledge, controls the circumference of your activity," said Kwesi, who spoke in detail about topics including the mean-

See **SOCIETY** on Page 4

Campus community awaits next student leader

By Felicia Walker
News Editor

Stiff competition will soon end on campus with the results of the 2001-2002 Student Government Association elections taking place April 3 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

Presidential candidates Elena Stephens and Ronnie Davis are competing for the right to become the next leading voice of PV students.

Other nominees include Bridget Dew for SGA Vice President, Executive Secretary nominees Lindsey Keys, Quinisha Lipscomb

"Student government is a business and it has to be run accordingly."

- Ronnie Davis

"There are too many students at this University that feel like they don't have a voice any more..."

- Elena Stephens

and Tonesia Rhodes, Vice President of Academic Affairs nominee Nathan Walker, Senator-School of Architecture James Sanders, Recording Secretary nominee Jemyre Lennon and Comptroller nominee Ashley White.

As the current SGA president, Desmond Thomas, prepares to pass on his position to the next campus student leader, both Stephens

See **SGA** on Page 5

Wright soars as Lady of the Dove

By Tiffany Walker
Asst. News Editor

On Wednesday, March 28, six women graced the stage of the Hobart Taylor Recital Hall in hopes of winning the title of the next Lady of the Dove.

Timothy McCray, pageant coordinator, transformed the recital hall into a magical



Marianna Wright,
Lady of the Dove
2001-2002

See **PAGEANT** on Page 5

Computer lab relocates to New Science Building

By Marvin Anderson
Asst. Sports Editor

According to students, Prairie View lacks a sufficient number of computers that are up-to-date. As early as next week this problem could be solved.

The computer lab that was formerly located in Farrell Hall will be relocating to the New Science Building.

Initiated by Norm Hunter, director of Student Computing Centers, and Shah Ardalan, chief information officer of the university, the move will supply students with more recent computers.

Ardalan said he realized students were being charged \$70,000 a year to rent Farrell Hall, and decided to move them elsewhere for greater utilization.

During the search, Ardalan said he found that there was already furnished space available with proper wiring, and state-of-the-art security in the New Science Building.

With permission from University President Charles A. Hines, Ardalan leased 200 new computers and began moving into the new site.

"We now have what is deserved of a first class university," Ardalan said.

The new lab will contain computers with 800 MHz, 19-inch monitors, and updated PCs, and will allow a huge working space for students to be able to work in a wireless environment.

See **LAB** on Page 5

The new computer lab will have hours similar to those of the Library,
Monday-Thursday:
8 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.,
Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Sunday: 1 p.m. - 10 p.m.

In This Issue

Health Awareness Week.... see Page 4

TSU relays See Page 6

The Brothers ain't all that... see Page 7

•World•

Fire puts spotlight on boarding schools

Nairobi, Kenya

AP-Next to life itself, Kenyans rank education as the most important thing in the world, and parents and older siblings will make great sacrifices to send at least some of their children and younger brothers and sisters to school.

Police suspect arson was the cause of the fire in the crowded dormitory at the government-run Kyanguli Secondary School in Machakos. The government-run school is one of about 3,500 in Kenya.

Most of the boarding schools are extremely modest.

Gunmen attack French aid groups

Mogadishu, Somalia

AP-Militiamen ambushed an aid convoy and attacked the compound of a French humanitarian group in Mogadishu on Tuesday, taking away nine relief workers, officials said.

Witnesses said at least eight Somalis were killed in the fighting which grew out of a feud between a group hired to protect the Medecins Sans Frontieres compound and a rival militia. As many as 30 people, mostly militiamen, were wounded, according to hospital sources.

Arab leaders face thorny issues

Amman, Jordan

AP-Arab leaders convened a landmark summit Tuesday with calls for unity in the "one Arab family" after 10 years of dissension that has prevented regular meetings of the heads of state of the 22-member Arab League.

In their first regular meeting in 10 years, the heads of state face the thorny task of trying to forge a unified stance on Iraq's international isolation and reach agreement on how to deal with the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Banning Pokemon games, cards

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

AP-Saudi Arabia has banned Pokemon cards, saying they show symbols associated with Israel and are harmful to kids.

Saudi Arabia's highest religious authority has declared a fatwa, or religious ruling, against the little characters Japan's Nintendo has made into a multibillion dollar enterprise that is enormously popular around the world.

•National• Secretary guilty of embezzlement

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

AP-A Waterloo man has pleaded guilty to a federal charge that he embezzled more than \$48,224 from the Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical and Energy Workers International Union, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

Steven Lathrop, 35, was secretary-treasurer of a union local. The embezzlement occurred between April 1999 and June 2000, according to court papers.

Lathrop pleaded guilty last week to one count of embezzlement, the U.S. attorney's office stated.

Wild turkey flies through truck

Toddville, Iowa

AP-An eastern Iowa man and his 2-year-old son received minor injuries after a wild turkey flew into the driver's-side window of their pickup.

Chris Johnson, of Urbabana about 20 miles north of Cedar Rapids, was driving south on Interstate 380 in Linn County on Sunday when the turkey struck him in the head, causing him to veer into a ditch.

He received head and chest injuries and was flown to St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids.

Three children found home alone

Council Bluffs, Iowa

AP-A couple were charged with child endangerment after police found their three children-ages 4, 10, and 12-home alone on a Saturday night.

The children told police their parents were at work and would be home later. Police said they found dirty clothes, garbage and dirty dishes throughout the house.

Cell phone tower proposed for campus

Iowa City, Iowa

AP-More than 30 people attended a weekend meeting on a proposed cell phone tower on the Regina High School campus.

While there are 55 such towers in the country, this would be the first located on school property.

The tower, proposed by Sprint PCS and U.S. Cellular, would be located on the southwest corner of the school's football field. In return, the companies would pay the school \$600,000 in cash and building upgrades over the next 25 years.

•Regional•

Property taxes behind

Houston, Texas

AP-Republicans aren't calling state Rep. Senfronia Thompson a tax-and-speed Democrat this time. Instead, they're pointing out she has not spent anything on taxes for a Houston property in 13 years.

Harris County records show the Houston legislator is \$6,359.53 behind on taxes to the county and city for a northeast Houston parcel she acquired in 1987.

Thompson, explained Monday she received the property as part of the settlement and never wanted to keep it.

Woman sues apartment

Lake Jackson, Texas

AP-A woman who acknowledges being the main suspect in an October apartment fire that killed four neighbors has sued the complex, demanding the return of \$427 in prorated rent and a pet deposit.

Sadie Proffitt, whose husband was also found dead in the Oct. 10 blaze, has a claim pending in a Brazoria County small-claims court. She sued after the complex did not respond to a certified letter in which she asked for the money.

Rancher trial begins

Bracketville, Texas

AP-The trial of a rancher accused in the shooting death of a Mexican national has been delayed to give prosecutors more time.

Alex Arreola, deputy district clerk for Kinney County, said the request of District Attorney Fred Hernandez for a continuance was granted Monday morning.

She said no new date has been set for the trial, which was to have gotten under way with jury selection in Bracketville on Monday under the scrutiny of the United Nations, the Mexican government and immigration rights advocates.

Pilots list demands

Fort Worth, Texas

AP-Pilots at American Airlines want assurances that their pay, pension benefits and other rights won't be diminished when the carrier purchases Trans World Airlines Inc.

In a message for pilots recorded Friday, John Darrach, president of the Allied Pilots Association, said American's pilots are seeking the same protections that United Airlines offered its pilots last year after announcing its proposed purchase of US Airways.

IN BRIEF

Calendar of events

30 Friday

Pick up your copy of The Panther

Mr. Rodney Hobbs Seminar, Hobart Taylor, Prairie View, TX, 2:30-5:30 p.m.

Mini step show, Student Park, Prairie View, TX, 5 p.m.

PV Relays, PVAMU, Prairie View, TX, 1 p.m.

CAB Babydome party, Babydome, Prairie View, TX, 9 p.m.

31-1 Sat/Sun.

PV Relays, PVAMU, Prairie View, TX, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

2 Monday

Blood Drive, Alumni, Prairie View, TX, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

TuPac Conference, Hobart Taylor, Prairie View, TX, 7 p.m.

3 Tuesday

Panther Meeting, Harrington Science Bldg. Rm 105, Prairie View, TX, 5:30 p.m.

Dorm Step-off, Baby Dome, Prairie View, TX, 6 p.m.

TuPac Conference, All-Faiths Chapel, Prairie View, TX., 7 p.m.

4 Wednesday

Sexual Assault Support Group, Health Center, Prairie View, TX, 5:30 p.m.

Toastmasters, Hobart Taylor, Prairie View, TX, 5 p.m.

5 Thursday

American Marketing Association, Hobart Taylor, Prairie View, TX, 5 p.m.

Alkebulan Movie Night, University College, Prairie View, TX, 6:30 p.m.

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Violence 101

Threats invoke fear in Houston area



By Sheleah Hughes
Editor-in-Chief

America's schools are in bad shape. Over the last few days, two Houston area schools have been plagued by threats of school violence.

Robert E. Lee High School officials were forced to deal with a weapon possession situation involving one of its students.

Creek Side Intermediate School was dealt a hand of two jokers—not one—threatening to harm members of the student body.

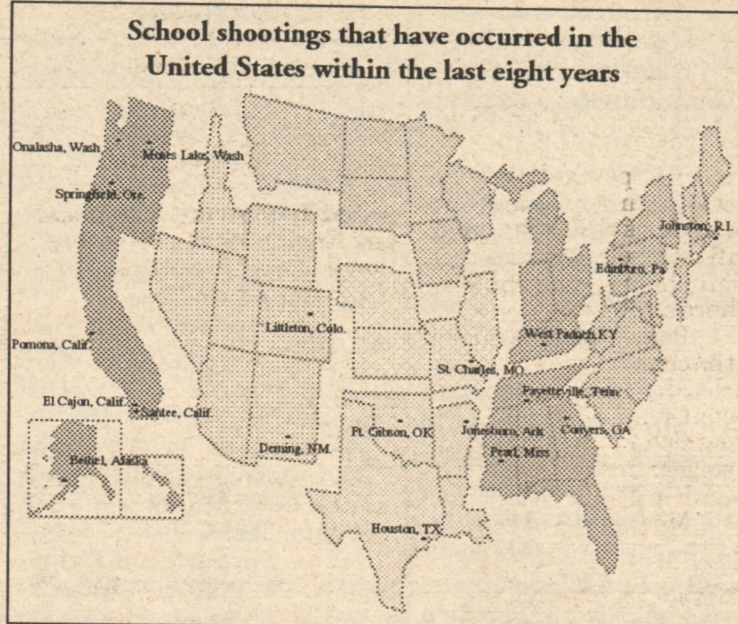
Each of these teen and pre-teen outlashes falls in line with the national trend of heightening violence in American schools.

In a recent survey of 350 people, administered by Houston's Newsradio 740

KTRH, more than half of the participants agreed violence is on the rise due to a number of combined environmental factors present in U.S. homes and schools, rating lack of parental attention as the top reason for the trend.

Everything but family life seems to be blamed for children's rage, particularly music. Maybe it's time for some people to realize hip-hop isn't the cause.

People are responsible for themselves and parents for their children regardless of external influences.



School shooting and white denial

The following is an excerpt from a column written by Time Wise, a Nashville based writer and activist. He can be reached at tjwise@mindspring.com. Editors: The content may be offensive to some readers.

I can think of no other way to say this, so here goes: white people need to pull our heads out of our collective a**. I said this after Columbine and no one listened so I'll say it again: white people live in an utter state of self-delusion.

Danger in unexpected places
We think danger is black, brown and poor, and if we can just move far enough away from "those people" in the cities we'll be safe. If we can just find an "all-American" town, life will be better, because "things like this just don't happen here."

In case you hadn't noticed, "here" is about the only place these kinds of things do happen. Oh sure, there is plenty of violence in urban communities and schools. But mass murder; wholesale slaughter; take-a-gun-and-



and yet there is no profile?

Imagine if all these killers had been black: would we still hesitate to put a racial face on the perpetrators? Doubtful. Indeed, if any black child in America were to openly discuss their plans to murder fellow students, as happened both at Columbine and Santana High, you can bet your a** that somebody would have turned them in, and the cops would have beat a path to their doorstep. But when whites discuss their murderous intentions, our stereotypes of what danger looks like cause us to ignore it—they're just "talking" and won't really do anything.

We ignore the warnings signs, because in our minds the warnings signs don't live in our neighborhood, but across town, in that place where we lock our car doors on the rare occasion we have to drive there. That false sense

of security the result of racist and classist stereotypes—then gets people killed. And still we act amazed.

Statistics reveal truth

According to the Centers for Disease Control, and Department of Health and Human Services, it is (white) children, and not those of the urban ghetto, who are most likely to use drugs.

That's right: white high school students are seven times more likely than blacks to have used cocaine; eight times more likely to have smoked crack; ten times more likely to have used LSD and seven times more likely to have used heroin. In fact, there are more white high school students who have used crystal methamphetamine (the most addictive drug on the streets) than there are black students who smoke cigarettes.

What's more, white youth ages 12-17 are more likely to sell drugs: 34 percent more likely, in fact than their black counterparts. And it is white youth who are twice as likely to binge drink, and nearly

twice as likely as blacks to drive drunk. And white males are twice as likely to bring a weapon to school as are black males.

A few years ago, U.S. News ran a story entitled: "A Shocking look at blacks and crime." Yet never have they or any other news outlet discussed the "shocking" whiteness of these shoot-em-ups. Indeed, every time media commentators discuss the similarities in these crimes they mention that the shooters were boys, they were loners, they got picked on, but never do they seem to notice a certain highly visible melanin deficiency. Color-blind, I guess. White-blind is more like it, as I figure these folks would spot color mighty damn quick were some of it to stroll into their community.

The folks hitting the snooze button on this none-too-subtle alarm are my own people, after all, and I know their blindness like the back of my hand.

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Submission Policy for Letters to the Editor

Anyone who reads The Panther can submit a letter to the editor by fax, e-mail, or postal service. All submissions are subject to editing and must include the author's name and telephone number.

CAREER FOCUS

Alumnus exhibits well-rounded attributes

"Life is what you make out of it. You have to think positive to be positive. You have to associate yourself with positive people to be positive," Kevin Bullock stated.

Bullock was a student at Prairie View A&M University and graduated in 1978 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. While attending PVAMU, he was an active member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

After graduation he went on to work for Houston Lighting and Power and GB Biosciences. During that time, he also became a registered professional engineer. Bullock is currently a project facilitator for A.E.I., representing Lynondell-Citgo.

Not only is he a husband, father and an engineer, he is also a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

Bullock is the current pastor of South Wesley AME church in Houston, Texas.

He is also an active member in the yearly PVAMU Minister's Conference held during every spring semester.

Microsoft job opportunities

Microsoft is now accepting applications for full-time positions for graduates and graduating seniors with a technical degree.

Job openings for the company are: Program Manager, Software Design Engineer, Software Design Engineer in Test, and Software Test Engineer.

All interested applicants should e-mail resumes to: College@Microsoft.com or fax them to Alison Brooks at (425) 936-7329.

Cooperative extension team receives awards

By Felicia Walker
News Editor

Although the Cooperative Extension team on PVAMU's campus may seem small in size, its contributions to the community recently earned it state recognition for distinguished service.

Twelve Prairie View A&M University Cooperative Extension Program staff members received Distinguished Service Awards at the 2001 Extension State Conference held March 20-23 in Austin, Texas.

Supporter of Extension, Dr. Linda Williams-Willis, an administrator for the program, believes that the team continuously works hard in completing extension projects.

"We always recognize those individuals who do outstanding work in their respective subject matter areas and who carry out their daily assignments in an exemplary manner," Williams-Willis said.

Winners of the 2001 Distinguished Service Awards were Sonja Stuart-Davis, Barbara Williams, Dorothy Johnson, Marie Rasmus, LaVaughn C. Mosley, Beverly A. Spears, Alfred R. Wade, Cheryl Battle, Ida M. Robinson, Paulette Cooper, Nelson Daniels, Hugh Soape and Shelia Randle.

The Team Award was given to Stuart-Davis, Mosley, Williams, Johnson and Rasmus for their Teen Leadership Connection Project in Harris and McLennan Counties.



Extension winners received the Team Award during convention in Austin, Texas for the Teen Leadership Connection Program.

port, Early Career, and Supporter of Extension.

The Cooperative Extension team operates on Prairie View's campus providing educational support to elementary and high school students, and adults.

Health awareness week addresses HIV/AIDS, diabetes

By Felicia Walker
News Editor

In an effort to increase student awareness on such topics as HIV/AIDS infection and diabetes, the Owens-Franklin Health Center sponsored Health Awareness Week, March 26-30.

The weeklong event sponsored free HIV, blood pressure and diabetes testing for students and faculty at the Cooperative Extension

This is a partial breakdown of U.S. AIDS cases as reported by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as of January 2001.

	Male	Female	Total
Men who have sex with men	348,657	--	348,657
Heterosexual contact	27,952	50,257	78,210
Risk not reported or identified	48,343	19,042	67,387

Building and Health Center on campus.

Co-sponsors for the event included the Office of

Human Resources, Cooperative Extension, St. Luke's Hospital and the W.A.M. Foundation.

Society from page 1

women, breaking the shackles of mental slavery, symbolism, freemasonry, the theft of African knowledge and more.

"Nile Valley Contributions to Civilization," "Miseducation of the Negro," and "Stolen Legacy" were books Kwesi presented as keys to unlocking the mind of black people.

SGA from page 1

and Davis contend that they are well qualified and prepared to steer Prairie View's campus further into the new millennium.

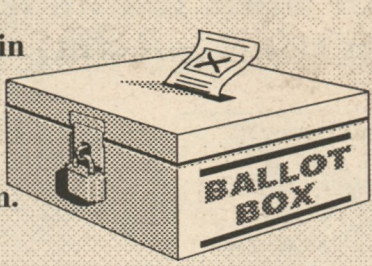
A senior architecture major, Stephens has carried positions in student government for the past two years. She is currently serving as 2000-2001 Vice President of University Operations and holds the title of 1999-2000 Junior Class President.

"There are too many students at this University that feel like they don't have a voice any more or that their voice is not being heard," said Stephens. "There are needs on this campus that are dear and near to me...I am going to do my best to make sure that I, as well as my cabinet, represent students. My goal is to let them know their voice isn't lost."

Stephens' platform of "Developing Students For Tomorrow" (D.S.T.) centers on campus and community involvement, campus unity, and student retention in both the University College and the Village.

"In addition to the D.S.T. activities, I also am focused on keeping students involved in government politics and how President Bush plans to lead this country, as well as meetings to negotiate appropriation of student

Students can vote in Alumni Hall, Tuesday, April 3 from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.



fees," Stephens said.

This year, Stephens said she made it a priority to travel with the University president and others to Texas A&M University to participate in the discussion on increasing student fees.

"I strongly believe in keeping students informed with what SGA, as well as the University is doing," Stephens said. "As SGA President, I intend to listen to the students' wants and needs, but also restore traditional activities like Hump Day on the Hill, open mic in front of Alumni and more recreational activities for students."

Running against Stephens is junior criminal justice major, Ronnie Davis.

Bringing his platform of I.M.P.A.C.T. to students, Davis said he hopes to create a new student government with new ideas.

"I believe in voicing students' opinions. I see a lot that I want to change, despite being satisfied with academics. When it comes to residen-

tial life, meal plans and recreation, there's a lot to be done," Davis said.

Davis who has also participated in SGA as both special assistant to the SGA president and sophomore class president, said he plans to use special population group PALS to keep students involved all year long.

"Student government is a business and it has to be run accordingly. I believe there are a lot of students who can work for SGA...If everyone does their part, both SGA and the campus will operate like clockwork," Davis said.

Upon campaigning, Davis plans to maintain his ideas innovation, motivation, participation, anticipation, connection and tradition, I.M.P.A.C.T., to create active programs.

Both candidates said they believe in building a strong student government and pay tribute to former SGA administrations.

Classifieds

Panther Meetings Tuesday 5:30 p.m. Harrington Science Rm. 104

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PAGEANT from page 1

planetarium in preparation for the "Age of the Aquarius."

"The theme was chosen because women are becoming more independent and self-reliant, signaling the 'Age of the Aquarius,'" McCray said.

McCray said this theme described the coming of age and allowed people to look into themselves for strength.

Carlecia Wright, Monique Patterson, Marianna Wright, Britni Gross, Ayana Crichlow and Jocelyn Holden entertained the audience throughout the tough competition.

The sports active wear category allowed the women to demonstrate their personalities through their chosen sporting event.

Winner of the sports active wear portion of the show, Holden, beat her competition with an impression of a heavyweight boxer.

The talent competition consisted of dance, poetry and dramatic interpretation.

M. Wright impressed the crowd with her dramatic interpretation of a tragic event which was actually true, bringing tears to the eyes of many people in the audience.

Miss Congeniality, best private interview, and best talent went to M. Wright who eventually claimed the crown. First and second runners-up were Holden and Gross respectively.

If for some reason M. Wright can not fulfill her duties as queen, Holden will serve in her stead.

The DAWN of a NEW ERA
ELENA STEPHENS

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- Be the VOICE of STUDENTS

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"Developing Students for Tomorrow"



FOR S.G.A. PRESIDENT

The DAWN of a NEW ERA

LAB from page 1

"All of the student PCs are leased, and will be replaced with leading edge technology every two years," said Ardan.

Sixty additional computers, 40 in the Delco building and 20 from the original computer lab, are currently fully functional.

The new lab has yet to open due to fire regulations.

There have been talks of extending the lab to 24 hours, but security for such an endeavor would be costly.

One security guard could cost about \$25,000, and the lab would need at least two, Ardan said.

The new computer lab is set to open on April 1, 2001.



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-Gaithersburg, Maryland-

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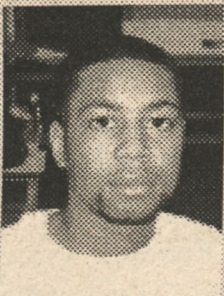
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Baseball program needs a savior



By Ryan McGinty
Sports Editor

The outcome of last week's baseball game between Prairie View and Southern University left me speechless.

While I usually have no trouble finding things to say, last week's game left further proof that someone needs to overhaul our athletic programs instantly or risk losing current and potential athletes.

When I arrived in the third inning of Friday night's doubleheader, I had to ask a fan if the 11-3 score (in favor of Southern) was correct. Not since Little League had I watched a game that was so lopsided so early.

Throughout the game, I watched our Panthers rotate pitcher after pitcher while Southern's bench sat there and partied like it was Mardi Gras after every home run. Fortunately, the Panthers did manage to win one game in the four game series against Southern. Despite the win, PV's record is 5-28 overall.

How did it get like this? Over the years, the Panther baseball program was one of the most respected programs among black colleges. The program has produced pro talent over the years and has contended for several NAIA championships.

However, the current state of the program can hardly match the past. Programs such as Grambling, Southern and even Texas Southern have gone and made great strides in their baseball programs while ours has remained stagnant.

Southern, which has several players from the Houston area, has shown the greatest promise among the teams with the conference's first ever NCAA tournament win and a huge win against baseball factory LSU.

Grambling has had the opportunity over the years to play the New York Yankees in exhibition play and Texas Southern's program is coming back to life as I speak (with the help of an ex-PV athlete who joined the TSU Tigers this season).

Wouldn't it be nice if Prairie View could share in the glory?

After surveying the program, it would not take much to get us back over the hump. Since baseball does not require many scholarships, I would fund the program instantly. The lack of funding has cost us some quality athletes over the years.

I was told by some very reliable sources last weekend that we were only a scholarship away from signing some top talent in the past.

The area we're in is rich in baseball talent and it would not be hard for us to attract quality talent.

Like I have said with other sports, a winning program would put a smile on the faces of our alumni and probably reopen their pocketbooks. If I can see it, I am sure someone with some clout can see it also.

If we continue to experience seasons like the ones we've been having over the years, the reputation of our program will continue to tumble.

Outdoor track teams fare well, prepare for upcoming relays

By Ryan McGinty
Sports Editor

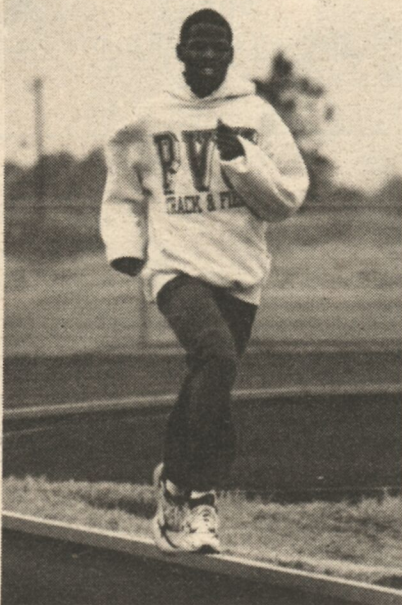


Photo by Creighton Holub

Demetrius Peters prepares for the upcoming Panther relays.

The Prairie View A&M men's and women's track teams continued their preparation for the upcoming SWAC championships with a strong performance at the annual TSU Relays last weekend at the University of Houston.

Both teams had the chance to compete against top college talent in addition to former college All-Americans such as former Prairie View athlete Ron Nelson.

The top finisher for the Panther men was hurdler Lewis Edmonson and sprinter Lewis Turner. Edmonson placed first in the 110-hurdles with a time of 13.98.

Edmondson finished ahead of athletes from such schools as Rice University and Huston-Tillotson. Turner, a senior from Dallas, broke the school record in the 100-meters with a 10.3 finish.

Other team members who placed in their respective events include shot putter Antwan McKinney, discus thrower David Ward and distance runner Demetrius Peters.

On the women's side, Ashley Thompson was the team's top finisher with a second place

finish in the long jump. Team-mate Antira Walker rounded out the team's scoring with a third-place finish in the discus.

"If the TSU relays was an indicator of what to expect from the PV men's and women's track squads this 2001 outdoor season, I predict several NCAA qualifiers and new SWAC record holders by the end of May," said volunteer coach Eric Gaither.

Both teams return to the track to participate in the 72nd annual Prairie View Relays which begin Friday.

Panther Baseball

SWAC Standings

East

Alcorn.....	11-3
Jackson State.....	7-4
AAMU.....	7-9
Mississippi Valley.....	4-7
Alabama State.....	5-11

West

Southern.....	13-3
Grambling.....	12-4
Texas Southern.....	7-7
Prairie View.....	4-10
Arkansas-Pine Bluff.....	2-14

Friday

at Texas Southern (DH)

Panther Softball

Today

Grambling 12 p.m. (DH)

Saturday

Grambling 12 p.m. (DH)

Panther Tennis

Men's Results

TSU defeats PV

Women's Results

Alabama A&M defeats PV

This Weekend

at Centenary College
Shreveport, La.

The Brothers appeals to the sisters



Photo courtesy of Sony

The Brothers stars D. L. Hughley, Shamar Moore, Morris Chestnut, and Bill Bellamy.

With all the hype over *The Bestman*, moviegoers across the nation were eagerly awaiting the release of *The Brothers*.

This bigscreen production was created to promote more positive images of Black men and show the trials faced by these men when dealing with relationship and commitment issues.

Was it really worth the wait? Was it everything a movie fanatic could desire and more?

The movie features an elite Hollywood cast: *The Best Man* star Morris Chestnut; *How to be a Player* player Bill Bellamy; D.L. Hughley of *The Hughley's* and *Comic View* ;

and *Young and the Restless* actor Shamar Moore.

The brothers portrayed in the movie are classy, young, educated, and attractive men, with a major downfall--a downfall that seems to be addictive with men everywhere. They are afraid of commitment and being honest.

One major flaw with this movie was that it did not have a definitive plot. It just circled around the problems that these men were facing.

Through all its flaws, producers reached their goal in getting the message across.

The film showed men that they too could be successful without resorting to typical male stereotypes of young

African-American men.

The acting of Chestnut has matured tremendously since his days of *Boyz in the Hood*. Hughley showed his acting styles by being versatile as opposed to his television counterpart.

Moore should stick with daytime television because his acting just is not movie material.

Bellamy's performance was equivalent to his MTV days.

Overall, *The Brothers* was okay but not what was expected.

By Kalyn L. Bullock
Managing Editor

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- passed all parts of TASP

Applications are available April 2 and are due April 13, 2001

They can be picked up in the University College Office.

For more information call ext. 2505

CONGRATULATIONS

To LeKeah Arceneaux of Building 36

The New Miss Black and Gold

20 Questions

1. What student spelled cucumber with a Q?
2. Who is Mr. Prairie View?
3. Why did the cars in Phase I get vandalized without consequences or acknowledgment?
4. Who's the guy that called complaining about The Panther?
5. Why didn't he come to the mixer on Tuesday?
6. Who thought BET and MTV were combined on their cable?
7. Did you try re-programming your television?
8. Are you going to the PV Relays just to see the guys in unitards?
9. How many people have bought a 99 cent fish sandwich?
10. Who's the thief that climbed through the air condition ducts to steal laptops?
11. Will you please return them (we need them)?
12. Doesn't Rev. Talley remind you of rapper MJG?
13. When will the MCs at all pageants learn how to read?
14. How long is William's Chicken going to be "coming soon?"
15. How many people are really going to the Babydome party tonight?
16. What's the difference between regular ketchup and fancy ketchup?
17. If virtual cartoon character Cita from BET were to get a cyber jheri curl, would she wear a fiber optic inter"net?"
18. Why does every organization have a line jacket including BSM?
19. When are we going to get more dedicated people to work on The Panther?
20. What do you think?

We want to know what you think. Please submit any questions you may have to The Panther, Suite 23 Drew Hall. Questions are printed at the discretion of The Panther.

"JUST CHILLIN'" by: Quincy Higgins



Commentary

Moving beyond norms introduces endless opportunity

By Letrice Dickerson
Special to the Panther

Are you tired of your ethics and beliefs being questioned?

Do you feel the harsh stares and hushed whispers that follow you constantly?

Does it seem frustrating to be your own person, only to find that there are critics to the left and right of you?

If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, do not fret or worry, a brighter day is coming.

It is often difficult to stand alone, daring to be

different and diverse from what the world expects of you.

An expression of oneself is an art that is created over a period of time, properly nurtured into the unique character that you are.

Many would agree that through the walks of life, there is an awkward feeling of lacking acceptance, sometimes a yearning for the approval of others.

At times like these, become self-assured of the person that you are.

Be confident that the path you are taking is not a mistake, but meant especially for you.

To put your self-es-

teem into overdrive, get C.R.U.N.K. (obtain Charisma, Resilience, refrain from Unlimited situations, keep a Noble attitude, and with Knowledge, no one can stop you.)

Sometimes, it is necessary to get C.R.U.N.K. with the obstacles in your life to face situations with confidence and grace.

Whatever you do, do it well, even if it causes stares, hisses and questioning expressions.

If you are sure of your goals, personality, means of expression or whatever else that is not normally approved by your peers and colleagues, go for what you know and get

C.R.U.N.K!

If you constantly worry about what people say, you are limiting yourself to a world of opportunity.

If those before us had that method of thinking, there would be no Black history, useful inventions, colleges and universities to attend and organizations to join.

This world would be an empty and dark place, without color, without definition, without variety.

Not only would your limitations decrease your opportunities, but you would never know what life has to offer you.

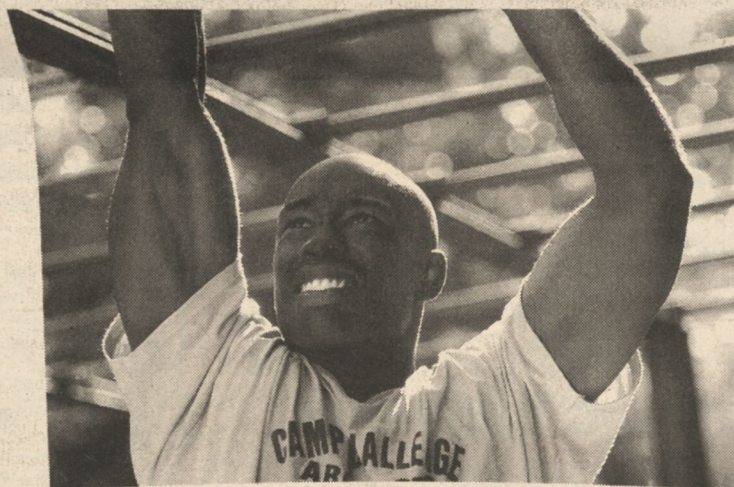
Just by daring to be different, you will be surprised

about the new and exciting people you would meet, which could mean a great career, friends and relationships, places to go and a world full of happiness.

I challenge you to be different, step outside the norm with the self-assurance that you can do and be whatever you choose to be.

I challenge you to ignore negative energy and to gain strength from its downfalls.

I challenge your creative inner beauty to reach out and blossom into something so strong that you will become more than a survivor, more than a conqueror. I challenge you to be yourself.



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inside that says "I can't"?
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